

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Scott Mascher – Sheriff

255 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Dwight D'Evelyn - Media Coordinator

928-777-7441



May 2, 2016

Recent Incident Overviews –

1) YCSO Seeking Vandalism Suspects/ 2) Deputies arrest 2 suspects, including a probationer, for Weapons Offenses

- 1) **On April 29, 2016**, deputies were dispatched to Forest Road 708 (aka Fossil Creek Road), at the 502 junction in the Fossil Creek area, regarding vandalism to a backhoe. The owner of the vehicle told deputies the backhoe was parked at the location on Wednesday, April 27th around 4PM, and the damage was discovered the morning of April 29th, just before 9AM.

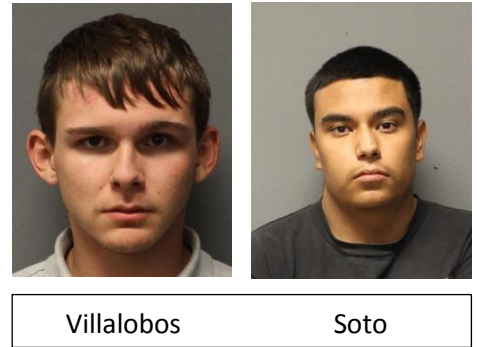


The tractor had been shot more than 80 times with 9mm bullets. All the tires were flat and it was estimated that at least 50 rounds went through the engine compartment and cab. The owner of the backhoe is a contractor working for the US Forest Service building gates in the area. The road is posted closed at Hwy 260 and the backhoe was parked across the road. Deputies did recover evidence at the scene and surveyed campers in the area. No suspects have been arrested at this time.

Deputies are seeking anyone with information on this vandalism to contact the Sheriff's Office at 928-771-3260 or Yavapai Silent Witness at 1800-932-3232. The caller who provides a tip to Silent Witness leading to the arrest of a suspect or suspects becomes eligible for a cash reward. Refer to case 16-015392.


- 2) **On April 28, 2016**, Anthony Villalobos and Genaro Soto, both 18-years of age and from Cottonwood, were arrested on charges including Aggravated Assault, Disorderly Conduct with a weapon, Criminal Damage, and Endangerment. Villalobos is being held without bond on a probation violation. Soto's bond is \$15,000 he remains in-custody. (continued)

Background – At about 2:15 PM, on April 28, 2016, YCSO deputies were dispatched to the area of Pipe Creek Drive in Cottonwood-Verde Village regarding suspects in a white Ford Mustang who shot at an occupied van, smashing the windshield. The driver of the van followed the Mustang to a cul-de-sac and tried to block the vehicle, but the Mustang's driver was able to get by and flee. Further information indicated a passenger in the Mustang had fled into the neighborhood carrying 'guns.'



A deputy arriving in the area turned onto Del Rio Drive and spotted the Mustang and contacted Villalobos, the driver. Villalobos admitted to a confrontation with the driver of a van, but denied shooting at the van claiming his passenger Soto fired the shots. Villalobos also claimed he did not know where Soto lived. Inside the Mustang, the deputy found BB containers, an empty BB gun package and a box of Co2 cartridges. While speaking with Villalobos, assisting deputies discovered Soto's home address where he was found and arrested. Both eventually admitted firing the air guns at several vehicles.

The driver of the van stated that when he saw these suspects point what he believed were firearms at him, he thought they were going to kill him. When the suspects shot at his van, the windshield broke directly in front of his face.

Deputies recovered 2 BB guns used by the suspects – one of the weapons is pictured in this photo -  Both operated with Co2 power and deputies noted the guns closely resembled firearms. Deputies also learned the suspects shot at, and damaged, 2 additional vehicles in the 3600 block of E Cochise Drive, Cottonwood. Both those victims were contacted. These vehicles were unoccupied.



Investigation remains active.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website:
www.ycsoaz.gov